

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tabuchi, T., et al.
Appl. No.: 09/730,813
Filed: December 6, 2000
Title: SURFACE TREATMENT APPARATUS
Art Unit: 1763
Examiner: Parviz Hassanzadeh
Docket No.: 112780-017



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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to Office Action dated June 18, 2002. In the Office Action, the Examiner required Applicants to elect a single species from patentably distinct Species 1-17.

This Application includes three independent claims (Claims 1, 2, and 3), each of which pertains to a surface treatment apparatus for making raw material gas plasma by generating plasma. Each one of claims 1-3 pertain to a different aspect of the surface treatment apparatus invention.

Claim 1 pertains to a surface treatment apparatus in which at least one of the plasma nozzles is made to be a hollow discharge generation area. See the last paragraph of claim 1.

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Claim 2 pertains to a surface treatment apparatus in which a hollow plasma generation electrode comprising one or more hollow discharge generation areas is disposed in the plasma generation chamber. See the last paragraph of claim 2.

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Claim 3 pertains to a surface treatment apparatus which combines the two aspects of claims 1 and 2. Particularly, claim 3 pertains to a surface treatment apparatus in which at least one of the plasmas nozzles is made to be a hollow discharge generation area, and in which a hollow plasma generation electrode comprising one or more hollow discharge generation areas is disposed in the plasma generation chamber. See the last two paragraphs of claim 3.

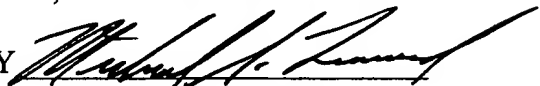
In response to the election requirement, Applicants elect the embodiment in which at least one of the plasma nozzles is made a hollow discharge generation area. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4-12, 18, and 19 are readable on that embodiment.

Applicants invite Examiner Hassanzadeh to call Applicants' representative with any questions regarding this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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